

# Policy for the composition of the Council of Governors

The Council of Governors (“the Council”) is responsible for setting out the Trust’s policy for the composition of the Council.

## 1. OVERARCHING OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 The Council shall at all times ensure that its composition accords with the requirements set out in Schedule 7 to the National Health Service Act 2006 (as amended).
- 1.2 The Council shall seek to ensure that, through its composition:
  - a) the interests of the community served by the Trust are appropriately represented; and
  - b) the level of representation of the public constituency, the classes of the staff constituency and the appointing organisations strikes an appropriate balance having regard to their legitimate interests in the Trust’s affairs

## 2. COMPOSITION

- 2.1 The Council shall comprise the following elected governors:
  - i. 18 public governors
  - ii. 1 staff governor representing nurses and midwives
  - iii. 1 staff governor representing non-clinical staff
  - iv. 1 staff governor representing other health professionals
  - v. 1 staff governor representing doctors and dentists

and appointed governors from the following organisations or groups:

- i. 1 governor appointed by Lancashire County Council
- ii. 1 governor appointed by the universities that provide medical schools within the Trust
- iii. 1 governor appointed by people who provide services to the Trust on a voluntary basis
- iv. 1 governor appointed by the Chorley and Preston and South Ribble Councils for Voluntary Service
- v. 1 governor appointed by the Preston and Western Lancashire Racial Equality Council

### **3. PERIODIC REVIEW**

- 3.1 The Council shall ensure that this policy is reviewed periodically, and not less than every three years.
- 3.2 In reviewing its composition, the Council shall have regard to appropriate guidance, including the NHS Foundation Trust Code of Governance published by Monitor, as well as emerging best practice.
- 3.3 The Council shall also take into consideration the outcomes of any self-assessment of its effectiveness that has been conducted since this policy was last reviewed.

### **4. SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS AT NEXT REVIEW**

- 4.1 Since authorisation, the Trust has adopted the approach of a single constituency for the whole of the Trust's geographical area (i.e. without different sub-constituencies based on geography), from which all elected public governors are drawn. The Trust's geographical area was extended in 2013 and the Council shall therefore give specific consideration to this issue at its next review, following a period of embedding, in order to satisfy itself that this approach remains appropriate.

### **5. APPROVAL OF CHANGES**

- 5.1 Any proposed changes to the composition of the Council shall require formal amendment of the Trust's constitution in order to take effect.
- 5.2 For the avoidance of doubt, amendments to the Trust's constitution require the approval of more than half of the members of the Council of Governors voting, and more than half of the members of the Board of Directors voting.
- 5.3 Amendments to the constitution must also be notified to Monitor within the timescales identified within the Trust's provider licence.

**APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS  
AT A GENERAL MEETING**



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**STUART HEYS  
CHAIRMAN**

Dated: 20 January 2014